GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1054
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
AMERICAN AIRCRAFT CARRIER
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Fanthome Shri Francis;Kusmaria Dr. Ramkrishna;Malhotra Prof. Vijay Kumar;Masood Shri Rasheed;Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar;Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US aircraft carrier warship equipped with nuclear warheads had anchored at the Chennai port recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for allowing entry of the said warship at Chennai port;

(c) whether foreign warships had anchored at Indian ports earlier also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTR OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) USS Nimitz, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, anchored few miles off Chennai harbour from the 2nd to 5th July, 2007.

(b) Port calls are routinely made by all navies, including the Indian Navy.The policy on the port calls by foreign naval vessels does not exclude nuclear-powered vessels from calling at Indian ports with the permission of the Indian Government.An arrangement for clearance of such vessels to call at Indian ports keeping in view environmental safety aspects, has been prescribed, and this was followed in the case of visit of USS Nimitz.It has, however, been the Government`s policy that port-calls by foreign naval ships, that carry nuclear weapons are not permitted. Foreign Governments are fully aware of this.

(c)&(d):A number of warships of different countries have made port calls and have anchored at various Indian ports in the past.